

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 DOTE-00 /050 W

----- 093090

R 251848Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT ORDERS LONGSHOREMEN BACK TO WORK

1. FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP REJECTION LAST WEEKEND OF
MEDIATED SETTLEMENT COVERING APPROXIMATELY 4,000 WEST
COAST LONGSHOREMEN PARLIAMENT ENACTED SPECIAL LEGISLATION
ON MARCH 24 REQUIRING STRIKERS TO RETURN TO WORK AND
CALLING FOR BINDING ARBITRATION WITHIN 60 DAYS. SOME
300 LONGSHORE FOREMEN WHO STRUCK ON MARCH 23 ALSO
COVERED BY BACK-TO-WORK ORDER.

2. MEMBERSHIP REJECTION OF AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BY
ASSISTANT DEPUTY LABOR MINISTER KELLY CALLING FOR
C DOLS 1.95 HOURLY WAGE INCREASE OVER TWO YEARS (CURRENT
BASE RATE C DOLS 6.08) PLUS RETENTION
OF PROVISION FOR LONGSHOREMEN TO UNPACK
CONTAINERS PENDING COMPLETION OF STUDY, CAME AS SURPRISE
GO GOC AND TRIGGERED SHARP REACTION.

3. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER ELEVEN WEST
COAST PORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY LONGSHOREMEN
SINCE MARCH 1 AND BY GRAIN SAMPLERS AND WEIGHERS SINCE
FEBRUARY 17 WILL RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS. GRAIN
WORKERS WHO ARE PART OF GENERAL LABOR AND TRADES
GROUP RETURNED LAST WEEK PENDING FINAL RESULTS OF
MEMBERSHIP VOTE ON NEW CONTRACT (SEE OTTAWA 1051)

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DUE PROBABLY MARCH 27. EARLY REPORTS REACHING

OTTAWA INDICATE DISSATISFACTION AMONG LONGSHOREMEN
WITH RETURN-TO-WORK LEGISLATION.

4. VANCOUVER MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS.

5. COMMENT: GOC WAS RELUCTANT TO ENACT BACK-TO-WORK
LEGISLATION BUT DISPUTE HAD REACHED IMPASSE THAT
LEFT IT LITTLE, IF ANY, ALTERNATIVE. IT IS SIGNIFICANT
THAT ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE NEW DEMOCRATS WHO ARE
VERY CLOSE TO LABOR, VOTED FOR THE MEASURE.
PORTER

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